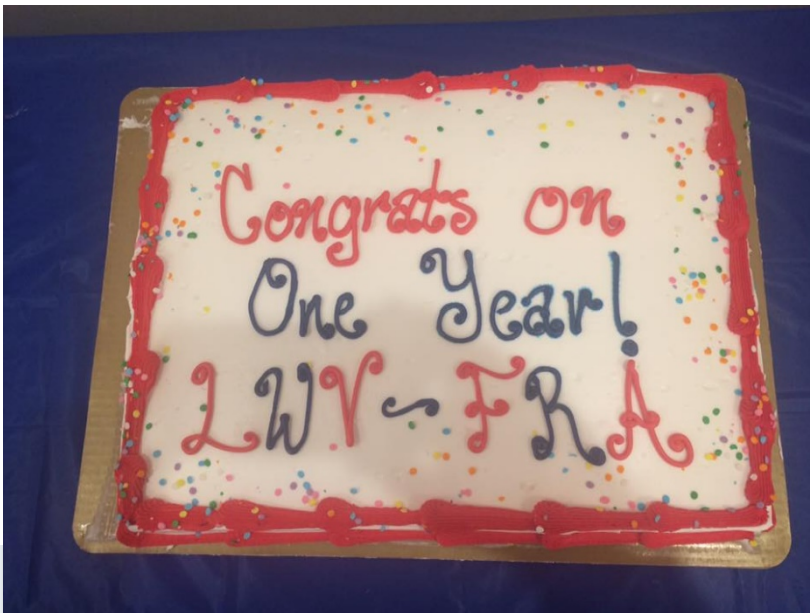


# LWVFRA

7/31/2017

## *A Message from our President*



**Hello Fredericksburg Leaguers!** Thanks to the State League, LWV-VA, the wonderful introduction done a year ago by Anne Sterling and the continued support of Linda Garvelink (currently First Vice President of LWV-VA) we have reached the one year mark. Thanks also to the 40 of you who have joined and are willing to be part of seeing democracy work in our area and the country.

If you read the latest Virginia Voter Express you know the June State Convention was a great success and we will be able to take part in the three program initiatives approved by the convention: **Updating the Mental Health Study** "to include substance abuse, soup homes, changes in course to put mentally ill in treatment facilities not jails and inclusion of broader services provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and Development." A task force to **Update Women's Rights and VA Law** based on current laws, and, a task force

## *Upcoming Events*

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**LWV-VA  
Workshop Friday,  
September 22  
Here in  
Fredericksburg!**

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Several of us went to the workshop last year in Charlottesville and found it informative and great for networking with fellow League members from around Virginia. This year the workshops will focus on the three studies that were approved at the State Convention: **Updating Mental Health Study**, **Update Women's Rights and VA Law** and a task force for the LWV-VA position on Education. Save the date and plan to go!!

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## Book Group

*Want to get together to socialize and chat about a book over coffee at Panera's? Beginning Saturday, September 16, 9:00 – 11:00 anyone interested meet and discuss our first book selection: "Half The Sky" Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.*

on the LWV position on Education to include **Charter Schools and School Vouchers** in public education. And of course our very important cause: **Registering people to vote!!!!** We have to take this seriously and make people aware that any change comes from the local level, no matter what you want to happen. In the Primary Election some localities only had between 3% and 20% turnout. It is our taxes that pay for the machines and precinct workers, etc., so it is important for us to see that as many people as possible know how important it is to get out and vote. I just read that the most important thing we can do before the November Election is to get as many people as possible not only registered to vote, but to actually get the voters out on Election Day. We are fortunate to have a very active **Voter Services Committee** and if you would like to help in the gigantic task of getting people registered, please join this committee. I am hoping we will all have a chance to discuss the various opportunities to get involved in watching and acting in this community of four Counties and one City beyond registration. There are many ways in which we can see how our area does business. Getting involved by attending meetings of the various public entities can be rewarding. Just in the City alone we have the Architectural Review Board, City Council and their Work Sessions, Transportation Commission, Zoning Board, School Committee and even the Electoral Board. One year ago I came to the LWV organizational meeting thinking I would sit in the back row and just observe. But I realize how important it is for my family and all families to have a say in what goes on in our lives and the only way to do that is to get involved - really involved. At the convention I met and talked with so many women and men who are excited about what their Leagues are doing. They know they are making a difference in their communities. We can do that!!! We can make a difference. Please come to our meetings, enjoy talking with others who want to get involved while we all celebrate the work that has gone on in the past year and the work which will be done in the future. Cathie

**Next General Meeting is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm at Fredericksburg Baptist Church.**

## Improving Civil Discourse in Greater Fredericksburg

September 30



A new workshop has been developed to support conversation over conversion, dialogue instead of diatribe, and to give the average resident of the greater Fredericksburg area some new skills. Christopher Pavek, the workshop moderator, says "We want to add to participants' toolbox of lifelong learning to help them communicate with open minds – and without fear." Titled "A Pathway to Civility in Communications," the workshop is non-partisan, FREE, and is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 1-5 p.m.

Sponsors include the League of Women Voters of the Fredericksburg area, the social justice committee of the UUFF, and The Front Porch newspaper. Partners in the event are the Central Regional Rappahannock Library and the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board. The workshop is open to the first 100 registrants and you can register by sending an email to [civildiscourse17@aol.com](mailto:civildiscourse17@aol.com) listing your name, and number in their party. The workshop will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUFF) building at 25 Chalice Drive in Fredericksburg, 22405.